

AN UNUSUAL THING

By VIRGINIA LEILA WENTZ

Copyright, 1905, by Baby Douglas

The truth about the whole matter was that while Doris loved Jack she didn't want to marry him yet. Freedom spelled "fun"—travel, adventure, oh, in short, everything nice and exciting! She simply couldn't bear the thought of "settling down."

And Jack was so ardent, so boyishly impetuous, that she must perforce keep him at arm's length or all would be over. Therefore her promise to give him a straight answer "when he did some unusual thing" was merely a subterfuge to gain time, which she had employed at the beginning of the summer.

And now the summer and the last rose of it had fallen. It was October. And Jack hadn't done anything unusual yet—nothing but be his nice, dear, wholesome self! The October days were full of elixir, and the tread of beauty was on the hills and the fields of grass and fodder, ripened by August suns and tanned by early September frosts to a mellow autumn brown.

With the passing of summer almost all the borders had left the pretty little Berkshire resort except Doris, Dudley and her invalid mother, who were to remain there some weeks longer. It was Jack's custom, since he had been obliged to return to town, to run down on Saturdays and spend Sunday with them.

This particular Sunday morning Doris and he were crossing the sloping meadows, plowing through the tangle of withered sedge and brown grass, when Jack suddenly broke out bitterly: "I don't believe you care for me at all—or ever have!"

"Really?" said Doris indifferently. She rested her white sunshade far back over her shoulder and looked dreamily across the meadows to the purple hills beyond, but there were dimples in her cheeks and a multitude of little curls blowing in her eyes.

"Why are you so provoking, dear? You've all but given your promise, and yet you keep putting me off and leading me along as if I were a pet animal with no will of its own. Well, I'm a fool!" he repeated, fiercely suppressing the expletive.

"Goodness, no, Jack!" drawled the mischievous Doris. "Not so bad as that!"

Jack cooled a bit and renewed his pleadings. "But do be reasonable, Doris. If you don't intend to throw me over, tell me when you'll give me a positive answer, and—"

"When you do some unusual thing, you know," interjected she sweetly, blowing the curls out of her eyes.

Jack, who had been carrying his hat, slapped it on his head with an exclamation of disgust. He was certainly vexed and took very long strides.

"Hello, Jack!" called Doris faintly after him as he far outdistanced her. "That's not the way I'm going. I'm going down by the bridge. Want to come?" It chanced that he did.

Now, the path to the bridge was rather a pretty path, running through a small wood, which in summer time was full of shade and woodbine and foxgloves and ferns. These had vanished, but the glory of the wood, the stream, remained.

Spanning the stream was the bridge. It was tiny and not particularly serviceable, with gingerbread trelliswork at the side for the tickling of unaristocratic tastes.

"Let's rest here," suggested Doris, sitting down comfortably on the flimsy side rail of the bridge. With one hand she held a bunch of ruffled skirts, and with her other she balanced herself on the handle of her sunshade.

"Isn't the purple haze on those hills beautiful?" remarked she poetically.

It was only some belated cricket, forgotten by July, that chirped an appreciative reply to this poetic observation. As to Jack, he was silent for a few moments; then with coarse, masculine directness he went straight to the spot.

"But what in thunder can a chap like me do, Doris, that would be 'unusual'?" "A decent enough sort, I reckon—good family, wholesome instincts and all that, with enough money to live on and a reasonable amount of industry—but as for doing anything 'unusual,' pshaw!" he broke off irreverently.

Doris hummed an air from "Little Johnnie Jones" and gathered her skirt frills a bit closer. Apparently she wasn't giving him the closest attention.

Jack flicked a beetle from the railing and changed his tactics. "Isn't it enough for your purpose, little girl, to be sure that I love you?" he asked.

Doris shot a lightning glance at her big lover from under her dark lashes. "Still," she said musingly, "I should like you to do some unusual thing." Jack passed one hand over his swarthy brow and took a hurried review of his resources.

"Possibly," observed he oddly at length, "I might write a book." Doris giggled. "Yes, and dedicate it to me," suggested she.

"In what form—To my Wife?" asked Jack boldly.

"Look!" said she quickly, nodding her head toward the opposite bank of the stream.

Jack looked. He saw a slight, sinuous movement among the high grasses of the margin, and then something slid suddenly into the water.

"Pooh," said he, leaning against the rail of the bridge to look over, "a water rat."

Doris swung a dainty russet shoe a bit beyond the edges of her ruffled

"No," she said, sorrowfully contemplating the tip of the shoe, and reverting to the penultimate subject, "I'm afraid you'll never write a book, Jack."

Jack was still leaning over the flimsy side rail looking down at the stream.

"I've hit it!" cried he, with enthusiasm.

"The water rat?" queried Doris. "Oh, the poor little creature!"

"The water rat, nothing! I've hit upon an unusual experiment."

Doris turned upon him sympathetically, her eyes like stars.

"Honest Injun, Jack?"

"Listen, Injun," said he, wheeling about and sitting likewise on the bridge rail. A sardonic smile lurked in the corners of his genial mouth. "Only," he added, "I'm not going to do 'the unusual thing' alone. I wouldn't for worlds wear a laurel wreath alone."

He slipped an arm through hers. "You know, I've sworn long ago that all my honors should be shared with you."

"But what's the unusual experiment?" questioned Doris doubtfully.

"Why, we're going to fall into the water," announced he pleasantly.

"Don't be an idiot!" expostulated she. "An idiot? Exactly. Isn't it 'unusual' for a sensible, level-headed fellow like me to be an idiot?" he ejaculated.

"Now the thing I am about to do will be undoubtedly idiotic, therefore 'unusual,' he proceeded to argue. "And seeing that it wouldn't do for me to distinguish myself alone—he interlarded his legs with some of the ornamental trelliswork and leaned pretty far back—"either we'll do an unusual thing, now and, together, or you!"

There was an impressive pause, while the cricket chirped and Doris endeavored vainly to wriggle her arm out of his.

"Or I"—laughed she weakly, seeing the vanity of her endeavor.

"Will promise to marry a man who has never done a single unusual thing in his life—before Thanksgiving day."

"Let go my arm!" gasped Doris as he threw back his weight and the ornamental trelliswork creaked.

"Some of the rusty little nails gave way, and Doris clutched him tightly. "New Year's," said she faintly.

"Thanked!"—It was only by an effort that Jack recovered his balance, for the rail had started five inches.

"Christmas," whispered she, compromising.

And so it came about, as Doris remarked to him on their homeward way, crossing the brown meadows, that after all Jack had done "an unusual thing"—he'd made her give him a definite promise concerning their wedding day.

None to Take His Place.

A traveler was once passing on horseback through a backwoods region where the inhabitants were notoriously shiftless. Arriving at a dilapidated shanty at the noon hour, he inquired what were the prospects for getting dinner.

The head of the family, who had been absorbed in "resting" on a log in front of his dwelling, replied that he "guessed he'd hev suthin on to the table putty soon."

This encouraged the traveler dismounted. But to his chagrin he found the food to be such that he could not force himself to partake of it. Making such excuse as he could for lack of appetite, he happily bethought himself of a kind of nourishment that he might venture to take there and one sure to be found on a farm. He asked for some milk.

"We don't hev milk any more," drawled the head of the house. "The dog's dead—dead week ago last."

"The dog?" cried the traveler. "But what has that got to do with it?"

"Well," expatiated the host meditatively, "the critters don't seem ter know 'nough ter c'm up ter be milked themselves. The dog he used ter go 'n' fetch 'em up."

Needed the Money.

When a famous specialist began the practice of medicine as a young man he numbered among his first patients a certain Mr. Darlie of Woonsocket, R. I. For a time the young physician treated his patient successfully for a very painful tumor on the neck.

One day the doctor called to inquire after his patient's progress. Although assured that the latter was enjoying health he had never known before, he at once assumed an air of the greatest concern and advised a speedy operation.

"But," said the astonished convalescent in broadest Scotch, "dinna ye tell me 'rouser' an operation was nae necessary? I'm feelin' better than I've felt for years, and what d'ye want to cut me now?"

The physician hesitated a moment, then resumed embarrassedly, "Well, you see, my good man, I need the money."

"Oh," said the patient, much relieved, "it's the siller ye're after, a' right. I was afeared ye war oweranxious for the experience."—Boston Herald.

A Captive Queen in Golden Chains.

Zenobia, daughter of an Arab chief and wife of a king of Palmyra, was celebrated both for her beauty and her learning. She went with her husband to battle, and his success in war was due to her wise counsels and personal bravery.

On the death of her husband in 266 she took the title of "Queen of the East" and ruled for five years with firmness. Aurelian, the Roman emperor, determined to humble her pride, and, although she won the two first battles, she was defeated and captured near Palmyra in 273. Led in triumph through the streets of Rome, she almost fainted under the weight of jewels and golden chains with which she was loaded. The emperor afterward treated her with great respect, and she spent the remainder of her eventful life in comfort and luxury near Tiboli as a Roman matron of high rank.



PERSUADE AN OBSTINATE CASE rather than lash it into action if you want to see good progress made. This is as true when it is a faulty human system as when it is a faulty machine.

Alcoholic stimulants and alcoholic medicines whip the digestive functions into quick action but do not prevent the weakening reaction which follows so closely.

In cases of impaired appetite and digestive action, a reliable tonic is needed and is the only thing that can be relied upon.

Dr. Pierce discovered, forty years ago, that Nature had provided freely for these needs of her children and that in her laboratory were the remedies. Glyceric extract of Golden Seal root, Queen's root, Stone root, Black Cherry bark, Bloodroot and Mandrake root, as prepared, combined and preserved without alcohol, in Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, constitute the most effective and certain tonic, alterative and tissue rebuilding remedy ever offered to the public.

A prominent merchant, Mr. J. Alfred Arnold, of 90 Saint Lawrence Street, Montreal, Canada, writes: "I have used Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery for and I think I need no doctor or other medicine. Nine years ago I was troubled with rheumatism, and I have never been without it since. There is no other medicine I think so much of, nor none I think so much of as Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. It is pleased with the results, and all thank me for advising its use. It is a splendid remedy for stomach trouble; cures colic in a few days, and is the only sure cure I know of for 'La Grippe'."

Dr. Pierce's Common Sense Medical Adviser is sent free on receipt of stamps to pay expense of mailing only. Send 31-cent stamps for the paper-covered book, or 31 stamps for the cloth-bound. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

THE MUTUAL BENEFIT LIFE INSURANCE CO. OF NEWARK, N. J.

FREDERICK FREELINGHUYSEN, PRESIDENT.

ASSETS (Market Values) Jan. 1, 1905.....\$93,237,720 27

LIABILITIES.....85,918,227 30

SURPLUS.....7,319,562 97

Mutual Benefit Policies

Special and Peculiar Advantages

Which are not combined in the policies of any other Company.

DAY & CORNISH, District Agents.

776 Broad St., Newark.

NOTICE OF SETTLEMENT.

Notice is hereby given that the accounts of the subscriber, executor of Julia E. Bliss, deceased, will be audited and stated by the Surrogate and reported for settlement to the Orphans' Court of the County of Essex, on Saturday, the 28th day of January next.

Dated December 5, 1905.

A. H. HAZELTINE, Executor.

CLOCKS, WATCHES, JEWELRY Repairing and Engraving.

Special Attention to Clock Work.

Will call for and deliver them at your home.

Thirty Years' Experience. PROMPT SERVICE.

AT OVERTON'S OLD STAND, 280 Glenwood Avenue,

Near D. L. & W. B. R. Station.

A. McKinney

STATE OF MARY JANE ANDREWS, deceased.

Personal order of GEORGE E. RUSSELL, Surrogate of the County of Essex, this day made, on the application of the undersigned executor of said deceased, notice is hereby given to the creditors of said deceased to exhibit to the subscriber under oath or affirmation their claims and demands against the estate of said deceased, within nine months from this date, or they will be forever barred from presenting or recovering the same against the subscriber.

CHARLES W. LEAVITT, JR.

60 YEARS' EXPERIENCE

PATENTS

TRADE MARKS DESIGNS COPYRIGHTS &c.

Any person who has an idea for a new invention, or who has a patent, or who has a trade mark, or who has a design, or who has a copyright, or who has a right in any other kind of property, should apply to me for advice and assistance. I will give you the best advice and assistance I can, and I will do all that is necessary to protect your rights and interests. My office is at 351 Broadway, New York.

OLD DOMINION LINE

Delightful Short Trips

For the Tourist

who desires to see the heart of the picturesque and historical waterways of Virginia.

For Those Who Seek Rest

in the balmy air of Old Point Comfort and Virginia Beach.

For the Business Man

who prefers to break his journey by an agreeable sea-trip.

Steamers Sail 3 P. M. Every Week Day.

Tickets and Steamship Reservations at Pier 26 N.E. Telephone 1580 Franklin.

Old Dominion Steamship Co., GENERAL OFFICES: 31 Beach Street, New York.

H. B. WALKER, V. P. & T. M. J. J. BROWN, G. P. A.

THE MUTUAL BENEFIT LIFE INSURANCE CO. OF NEWARK, N. J.

FREDERICK FREELINGHUYSEN, PRESIDENT.

ASSETS (Market Values) Jan. 1, 1905.....\$93,237,720 27

LIABILITIES.....85,918,227 30

SURPLUS.....7,319,562 97

Mutual Benefit Policies

Special and Peculiar Advantages

Which are not combined in the policies of any other Company.

DAY & CORNISH, District Agents.

776 Broad St., Newark.

NOTICE OF SETTLEMENT.

Notice is hereby given that the accounts of the subscriber, executor of Julia E. Bliss, deceased, will be audited and stated by the Surrogate and reported for settlement to the Orphans' Court of the County of Essex, on Saturday, the 28th day of January next.

Dated December 5, 1905.

A. H. HAZELTINE, Executor.

CLOCKS, WATCHES, JEWELRY Repairing and Engraving.

Special Attention to Clock Work.

Will call for and deliver them at your home.

Thirty Years' Experience. PROMPT SERVICE.

AT OVERTON'S OLD STAND, 280 Glenwood Avenue,

Near D. L. & W. B. R. Station.

A. McKinney

STATE OF MARY JANE ANDREWS, deceased.

Personal order of GEORGE E. RUSSELL, Surrogate of the County of Essex, this day made, on the application of the undersigned executor of said deceased, notice is hereby given to the creditors of said deceased to exhibit to the subscriber under oath or affirmation their claims and demands against the estate of said deceased, within nine months from this date, or they will be forever barred from presenting or recovering the same against the subscriber.

CHARLES W. LEAVITT, JR.

RIKER DRUG STORES

Save You Time and Money

Wherever you live a RIKER DRUG STORE is no farther away than the nearest Post Office

IN getting your medicine, toilet goods or sick-room supplies at the Riker stores, you get all the advantages of large stock, fresh goods, reliability and common sense prices that have made Riker famous.

Write us for what you want; it will be delivered promptly. We are never "out" of anything that the doctor orders or the nurse needs, or that your medicine chest or toilet table should have.

Here is a Hint of How We Save You Money

Calvert's Dental Soap	12c	Wyeth's Lithia Tablets, 6 grains	80c
Hagan's Magnolia Balm	81c	Glycerine, 2 ounces, container extra	14c
Mum	20c	" 4 ounces	14c
Williams' Barber Bar Soap	8c	" 8 ounces	20c
Williams' Shaving Stick	15c	Whiskies, Mt. Vernon Rye, Our Own	71c
Williams' Yankee Shaving Soap	8c	Bottling, quarts	71c
Williams' Luxury Shaving Tablets	14c	Whiskies, Gibson's, same quarts	\$1.00
Libbie's Extract of Beef, 5 ounces	28c	Whiskies, Scotch, (Jamaica), quarts	90c
Pierce's Favorite Prescription	75c	Whiskies, King William IV., V.O.F.	90c
Reckitt's Rheumatism Cure	44c	quarts	\$1.10
Santal Midy	75c	Gins. Burgett's 7 oz. quart bottle	14c
Scott's Emulsion	71c	Gins. Old Tom, quart bottle	80c
Tricophorus	81c	Gins. Gordon, Dry	80c
Washette Hair Stain	48c	Am. Evans' India Pale Ale, dozen	21c
Weber's Alpha Tea	8c	\$1.55; bottle	21c
Wyeth's Lithia Tablets, 9 grains	28c	Bas' Ale, Rose, bottle, 14c; dozen 21c	

All Deliveries Free

RIKER DRUG STORES

NEW YORK: Sixth Avenue and 23d Street Broadway and Ninth Street

HORACE S. OSBORNE, Pres., Newark, N. J.

ARTHUR S. MARSHALL, Sec'y and Treas., Montclair, N. J.

The Osborne & Marsellis Co.,

(INCORPORATED) Quarrymen and Road Builders.

Broken and Building Stone, Lumber and Masons' Materials.

BEST QUALITY LEHIGH, LACKAWANNA AND CANNEL COAL. KINDLING WOOD

M. & B. and Long Distance Telephones.

Quarries: Coal Yard and Main Offices, Upper Montclair, N. J.

UP-TO-DATE.

The Bloomfield Livery and Boarding Stables.

33 WASHINGTON STREET, BLOOMFIELD, N. J.

J. W. HARRISON, Proprietor. W. H. VREELAND, Manager.

L. D. Phone 1009-J; Newark Phone 63.

These stables are under new management, and fully equipped with first-class horses and vehicles of every description.

Open day and night. Service neat and prompt. Good accommodation for boarding horses.

Our Rates are Reasonable. Your Patronage is Solicited.

GEORGE HUMMEL, Successor to Martin Hummel & Son,

Dealer in the Very Best Grades of

LEHIGH COAL!

Well Seasoned WOOD, Sawed or Split.

YARD AND OFFICE: 361 BROAD ST., BLOOMFIELD, N. J.

John Rassbach & Son.

THE FLORISTS.

Special Attention Given to Decorating for All Occasions.

FLORAL DESIGNS ARTISTICALLY ARRANGED, Cut Flowers, Flowering Plants, Palms, Ferns, Etc.

BLOOMFIELD CENTRE AND GREENHOUSES, GLEN RIDGE.

Bloomfield, 1134—TELEPHONS—Glen Ridge, 1151.

BROS., BLOOMFIELD, N. J.

DRSH, ER ended to. ed.....

LOOMFIELD, N. J.

SPRING: ss, Freezias, etc., on Violets.

ERATE.

T. MONTCLAIR, N. J.

posite Post Office.

used at 5.30 Except

SEY STS.

EAT

PECIALS.

tute as remarkable a

re of presenting this

skirts and girls' frocks

actual worth.

l—An odd lot of dresses

Splendid quality cashmere

nd every frock as neatly